

WW-16J

Will Carne, President
Michigan Small Business & Technology
Development Center
2950 College Avenue
Escanaba, Michigan 49829

Dear Mr. Carne:

Thank you for your April 23, 2012 letter regarding the Marquette County Road Commission's proposal to build County Road 595 (CR 595).

On April 23, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided comments to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) objecting to the issuance of a permit for the proposed road. EPA considered and incorporated comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, both of which raised significant concerns about the project. A copy of EPA's letter is enclosed for your reference.

The federal review of CR 595 found that the Marquette County Road Commission did not comply with the Clean Water Act, which requires the applicant to demonstrate that there are no practicable alternatives to the proposed route with less impact to wetlands and streams. In addition, the review found that the stream and wetland impacts associated with construction of the proposed project would result in significant degradation of wetlands and streams along the road corridor, and that mitigation proposed for these impacts was inadequate.

The second page of the enclosed letter describes the process and timeframe for MDEQ to respond to the federal agencies' objections. EPA is committed to working with MDEQ and the Road Commission to come to a resolution that meets the needs of the Road Commission while protecting the aquatic environment.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Melanie Haveman of my staff by phone at (312) 886-2255 or by email to haveman.melanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Tinka G. Hyde
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

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